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ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS

(Letters addressed to "Correspondence" will receive attention in this column. Inquiries are solicited.)

Q. What day of the week was April 23, 1869? H. V. R.

A. Sunday.

Q. What day of the week was November 17, 1889? R. S.

A. Sunday.

Q. What days of the week were September 14, 1888, and September 9, 1889? C. K.

A. Friday and Thursday.

Q. Is there a premium on a silver three-cent piece of 1867? C. K.

A. It is worth twenty-five cents.

Q. Of what nationality was Charles K. Harris and who wrote the song "After the Ball"? A. W. R.

A. He is an American; was born at Poughkeepsie, N. Y., and wrote the song mentioned in 1896 and about a hundred more since then.

Q. Please give the names and dimensions of the two largest steamships afloat. W. R. T.

A. The Olympic and Titanic of the White Star Line are the two largest vessels afloat. They are of 45,000 gross tonnage, 66,000 tons displacement, 50,000 horsepower, 882.6 feet long, 92 feet beam and 94 feet deep. These ships are 32.6 feet longer than the swift Mauretania and Lusitania of the Cunard Line and 13,000 tons heavier, but have 20,000 less horsepower.

Q. Are the officers of the steamer General Slocum serving terms in prison in New York for the lives lost on that steamer by fire? T. G.

A. Captain William Van Schaik, who commanded the General Slocum at the disaster, was sentenced to ten years' imprisonment at Sing Sing prison, where he was a trustee in charge of the prison ferryboat. Captain Van Schaik was recently released from prison.

A decision has been handed down in answer to the question from "G. P." concerning a doubtful play in the domino game of "forty-two." The question was: "Can a player hold back a trump? For instance, if six is trump and double one leads, do you have to play your six-one if you have no other?" It is not necessary to play a trump, which counts as a trump and nothing else. A player can go to the boneyard in order to make his play if he cannot make it otherwise.

Q. 1. If a man should steal money from the government and leave the United States, could he be brought back to the United States for trial? 2. How do you pronounce "chaffeur"? E.

A. 1. Such a contingency would be covered by the terms of the extradition treaty, if one should exist, in force between this country and the country in which the fugitive sought refuge. The United States has extradition treaties with most of the foreign governments. 2. Sho-fer, with the accent on the last syllable.

Q. 1. Who bore the title of "The Hesbian Nightingale"? 2. Who was the "Blind Bard"? 3. What philosopher is said to have lived in a tub? R.

A. 1. The Lesbian poets were Terpander, Alcaeus, Arion and Sappho, the latter a poetess, and probably the one referred to as the "Nightingale," because of the musical qualities of her poetry. 2. John Milton. 3. This was Diogenes the Cynic, and his tub, if he ever really lived within so circumscribed a habitation, was probably a huge jar.

Q. Kindly give a good recipe for hardening the hands. Would resin do it? Am learning to play handball and they don't harden. A. J. R.

A. There are various tanning mixtures in use by athletes, but we do not know the extent of their virtues. Powdered resin will help some and is probably as efficacious as anything else. But in the usual course of nature the crop of blisters and sore spots

should be succeeded by the most gratifying callouses to which any reasonable person could aspire if the game is pursued with an earnestness sufficiently persistent.

Q. How deep and long is Death Valley in California? Why is it people cannot live in it? What kind of animals are found there and last, but not least, what is the nearest town or city to the valley? W. E. G.

A. It is 427 feet below sea level at its lowest point, from ten to twenty miles wide and 130 miles long. Water is scarce, nothing grows there but cacti and greasewood, the ground is mostly composed of borax and it is the hottest spot in North America and does not offer any very attractive inducements to settlers. Snakes, lizards and horned toads are the only animals that find the surroundings congenial. Johannesburg seems to be the nearest railroad town, but that is far away from the peaks of the Panamint range surrounding the valley.

Q. 1. Has New York a greater population than London? 2. Where is Buffalo Bill (Colonel Cody)? M. H.

A. 1. New York has a larger population under a central municipal government than London. A part of Greater London is not governed by the City of London proper, but is under the jurisdiction of the Home Office of the British Government. The population of what is known as Registration London, which is within the boundary of the municipal government, is 4,522,964, and the population of Greater New York, which is all included in the central municipal government, is 4,768,883. Included in the territory outside of London, which is made up of the metropolitan and city police districts under the Home Office, London has a population of 7,252,963. 2. He has gone back to the show business once more and has his Bill Show on the road unless he has put it into winter quarters somewhere.

Q. Please give a sketch of Susan B. Anthony and of Dr. Anna Shaw and tell if they were ever married and if mothers, how many children were born to them. D.

A. Susan Brownell Anthony was born at Adams, Mass., in 1820 and died in 1906. Leaving the Friends' Boarding School, Philadelphia, she began teaching school at the age of fifteen and continued the work until she was thirty. She organized the first State temperance society in 1859, was active in promoting women's rights and during the Civil war organized the Women's National Loyal League. She founded a women's rights paper, The Revolution, in 1868, founded the Woman Suffrage Association, was arrested and tried for voting under the Fourteenth Amendment in 1872 and appeared before every Congress from 1869 to the time of her death in behalf of the suffrage movement. She never married. Anna Howard Shaw was born in England in 1847, coming here with her parents in 1851. She studied theology and medicine at Boston University and was pastor of the Hingham, Mass., M. E. Church and at East Dennis from 1878 to 1885, but was refused ordination by the General Conference. She was ordained, however, by the M. P. Church in 1880, resigned in 1885, and since then has lectured for the suffrage cause. She never married.

Q. Please give the year that the magnetic meridian turned towards the east. It travels one way for 200 years and then turns back. The change was somewhere about 1900. I. L. S.

A. Please explain why and how the degrees change for surveying. I've been told that the change amounts to one degree every twenty years, but why will a surveyor running by degrees of to-day reach the corners arrived at by degrees used in 1824? N. M. R.

A. The magnetic pole, where the magnetic meridians of the earth ter-

minate, moves slowly from year to year, but from what cause it is not known. Since 1540, when fairly accurate observations were taken in England, to the present time, the north magnetic point has moved approximately in an ellipse over about two-thirds of the circumference, in the direction of the hands of a clock. At its usual rate of progress the magnetic elements in London, for instance, will be the same in 2010 as they were in 1540. In the United States the agonic line runs from Lake Superior to South Carolina. East of this line the declination of the compass is westerly, and west of it easterly. The agonic line leads to the true north and along it there is no declination of the compass. This line is slowly moving to the west. Up to about 1765 the compass needle had been slowly moving east along the Atlantic seaboard. Then it began to move to the west and this movement was continued up to 1885 and extended nearly to the Pacific coast. By 1905 this movement had become less marked, but had not yet been reversed easterly. The movement on the Pacific coast has been easterly, but has not affected the territory east of the agonic line mentioned above.

Arraigns Hospital Management.

Health Officer Dr. J. C. Saile reports that James Rogers, the colored man who was taken from this town to the Isolation Hospital, was getting along very nicely, and there was no indication yet of any spread of the disease. The Rogers case has, however, caused a stir among Belleville officials, and at the meeting of the Belleville Town Council Tuesday night Frank J. Carragher, a member of the council, made some startling statements about the conducting of affairs at the hospital.

Carragher alleged he had been led to believe not long ago on reliable authority that a minstrel show had been given in the tuberculosis ward of the hospital by some Boy Scouts without any precaution being taken to prevent infection. He said that he understood that Dr. Hickey, an interne, and Miss Regan, a nurse, are in attendance on the only smallpox patient, a negro, and that they leave his room to dine with attendants without taking precautions to prevent the spread of the disease. Also he said, he was told that the clothing of this patient is laundered with that of the rest of the patients, instead of being burned.

Mr. Carragher said that some one had told him he had been to the superintendent, Dr. Henry E. Ricketts, and complained of the conditions and that he had been told it was none of his business. According to Mr. Carragher, he had been instructed by Mayor E. Lyman Denison and Town Attorney John De Graw that it was quite proper for him to bring the matter before the Board of Health, which he intends doing.

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